Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-8 and 11-17 are currently pending in the present patent application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 11-16 under 35 USC 102 based on Roberg (DE 0 631 717 A1).

The grounds for the rejection were that the device of Roberg, FIGURE 9, discloses all the elements of the claim.

The applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims.

Roberg does not disclose "a rotatable chopper mounted in a housing with a bottom ... wherein said housing bottom extends rearward to extend beyond a point of lowermost extent of the rotatable chopper" as recited in claims 1 and 4.

For at least the above reasons the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of the claims.

Respectfully,

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Stephen M. Patton Reg. No. 36,235 Patent Department Deere & Company One John Deere Place Moline, IL 61265 Telephone No. (309) 765-5543

Enclosures: postcard

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

envelope addressed to:
Mail Stop AFE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: 12 April 200 (c

Deere & Company

e McKay

2 April 2004